



Animal Welfare Institute

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The comprehensive “Safe Air Travel for Animals Act” (S. 1193 and H.R. 2776) as originally introduced in the 106th Congress was defeated. However, an amended version of the bill under the same title was incorporated into a larger aviation bill - the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century, which did pass (PL 106-181).

Under the less comprehensive language that was eventually adopted (reprinted below), Congress required that airlines report monthly any animal deaths, injuries, and losses, and that this information be published “in a manner comparable to other consumer complaint and incident data.” The measure also mandated that training of airline personnel who handle animals be improved, and that the information contained in the reports be shared with the USDA. Unfortunately, no penalties were included, and the definition of “animal” was left to the Secretary of Transportation. In the end, [the long-delayed regulations](#) defined “animal” so narrowly as to leave out all animals shipped for commercial purposes.

The relevant sections of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century are as follows:

114 STAT. 160 PUBLIC LAW 106–181—APR. 5, 2000

SEC. 710. REPORTS BY CARRIERS ON INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS DURING AIR TRANSPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 417 (as amended by section 231(b) of this Act) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 41721. Reports by carriers on incidents involving animals during air transport

“(a) IN GENERAL.—An air carrier that provides scheduled passenger air transportation shall submit monthly to the Secretary a report on any incidents involving the loss, injury, or death of an animal (as defined by the Secretary of Transportation) during air transport provided by the air carrier. The report shall be in such form and contain such information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(b) TRAINING OF AIR CARRIER EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall work with air carriers to improve the training of employees with respect to the air transport of animals and the notification of passengers of the conditions under which the air transport of animals is conducted.

“(c) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to ensure the sharing of information that the Secretary receives under subsection (a).

“(d) PUBLICATION OF DATA.—The Secretary shall publish data on incidents and complaints involving the loss, injury, or death of an animal during air transport in a manner comparable to other consumer complaint and incident data.

“(e) AIR TRANSPORT.—For purposes of this section, the air transport of an animal includes the entire period during which an animal is in the custody of an air carrier, from check-in of the animal prior to departure until the animal is returned to the owner or guardian of the animal at the final destination of the animal.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such sub-chapter is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“41721. Reports by carriers on incidents involving animals during air transportation.”